

## The Book of Jeremiah

### The Title, Author, and Date of Jeremiah

1. Title: Jeremiah
  - a. Hebrew — דְּבָרַי יְרֵמְיָהוּ = “The words of Jeremiah”
  - b. Greek — Ἰερεμίας
2. Author: Jeremiah
  - a. Name means: “YHWH establishes”
  - b. He was a priest. Closely tied to the Temple 1.1
  - c. Prophet of YHWH during the reigns of the final five Kings of Judah. 625-585 B.C. B.C. 1.2-3
    - 1) Contemporary with Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Ezekiel and Daniel
    - 2) He was called “the weeping prophet” due to the tone of his prophecies. 9.1.; 13.17; 14.17
    - 3) He is sometimes called “the lonely prophet” since God commanded him to not marry. 16.1-4
  - d. Born 645 B.C. – Died possibly after 561 B.C. (lives 85-90 years)
3. Date: Sometime during his life.

### The Background and Setting of Jeremiah.

1. Jeremiah prophesied during the time of the final five kings of Judah. c. 625-585 B.C. – 2 Ki 22-25; 2 Ch 36
2. His ministry.
  - a. He was called at the age of 20, under King Josiah. 1.2
  - b. King Josiah was good, and brought in good reforms. The four kings following him were bad, following in the idolatrous footsteps of Israel. God opposed to the final four kings, and were finally taking into captivity to Babylon.
  - c. God called Jeremiah to confront this apostasy, and call the nation to return to God. After Josiah, his ministry was one of warning the people of judgment and exile.
  - d. Jeremiah was totally disregarded and abused, and experienced persecution and humiliation.
3. Spiritual condition of Judah
  - a. Open idolatry – ch. 2, 7.31; 19.5; 32.35; 7.18+44.19
  - b. Injustice, tyranny, and immorality were rampant.
4. Jeremiah addressed Judah’s sin, warning of God’s judgment: Invasion, siege, destruction

### The Purpose and Message of Jeremiah

1. The **purpose** of the book of Jeremiah is to **turn Judah from the point of no return.**
  - a. God deals with the rebellion of His people (as well as all the nations), in order to turn them back so they will fulfill His purposes. (13.11; 30-33)
  - b. God promises His people that He will accomplish this through:
    - 1) judging their sin (5.9, 29; 9.9, 13-14)
    - 2) cleansing them from their sin (9.7; 31.34), and
    - 3) restoration of a remnant to blessing (23.2-8, 50.20)
  - c. Ultimately, God’s purpose is to *re-establish His sovereign lordship over His people, for their good* (31.33).
2. The **message** of the book of Jeremiah is: **“Repent and avoid God’s judgment.”**
  - a. The judgement of the rebellion of all the nations (and specifically Judah) by the Sovereign Lord brings about God’s warning for them to repent, as well as a promise of punishment and exile for refusal to heed that warning (chs. 2-6, 11-13, etc).
  - b. However, there is also a promise of eventual blessing (4.1-2; 31.27ff), through:
    - 1) a remnant (23.1-3; 31.7-8),
    - 2) restoration of the land (30-33),
    - 3) fulfillment of the unconditional covenants of God (24.10; 30.3; 33), and
    - 4) the inauguration of God’s New Covenant (31.31-33), which will *reveal His glory to the entire world* (33.14-26).
3. Key verses: 5.9, 29; 9.9; 13.11b
4. Some key sections
  - a. 18.1-11 – the Potter’s house.

- b. chapter 22 – Curse of Jeconiah, with Messianic implications (cp. *Is 7.14*)
- c. 23.5-8 – Messiah
- d. 25.8-13 – Babylonian captivity, and prophecy of its length. (cp Daniel 9)
- e. 31.31-34 – The New Covenant.

### The Structure of Jeremiah

1. Historically, by Kings
  - a. Josiah: 1-6, 11-12
  - b. Jehoahaz: 7-10, 22-24, 25
  - c. Jehoiakim: 7-10, 14-20, 25, 35-36, 45-49
  - d. Jehoiachin: 13, 22-24, 45-49
  - e. Zedekiah: 21, 27-34, 37, 50-51
  - f. [Gedaliah]: 38-44
2. By Prophecies
  - a. Introduction: 1
  - b. Concerning Judah: 2-45 – 20 messages
    - 1) Warning of Judgment and Destruction of Judah 2-20
    - 2) Prophecy of Babylonian Exile 21-29
    - 3) Promise of Restoration 30-33
    - 4) Prophecy against Groups and Individuals in Jerusalem 34-36
    - 5) Siege and Fall of Jerusalem 37-51
  - c. Concerning the Nations: 46-51 – 9 messages
  - d. Conclusion: 52
3. MacArthur
  - a. Preparation of Jeremiah 1.1-19
  - b. Proclamation of Jeremiah 2.1-45.5
    - 1) Condemnation of Judah 2.1-29.32
    - 2) Consolation of Judah - the New Covenant 30.1-33.26
    - 3) Calamity on Judah 34.1-45.5
  - c. Proclamation of Judgement on the Nations 46.1-51.64
  - d. Fall of Jerusalem 52.1-34

### The Themes of Jeremiah

1. God's Covenants
  - a. The Abrahamic Covenant - 3.18; 4.2; 12.15; 14.21; 24.10; 30.3; 32.22; 33.14-26
  - b. The New Covenant - 31.31-33; 32.38-40; 50.5
  - c. The Mosaic Covenant - 3.16; 9.13-14; 11.2-10; 17.22; 22.9
2. Judgment - 5.9, 29; 9.9; 44.22
3. Visions and Object Lessons
  - a. Judgment - 1.13; 13.1-11; 18.1-12; 19.1-15; 24.1-10; 35.1-19; 43.8-13
  - b. Blessing - 1.11; 24.1-10; 32.6-15
4. Promises of Grace
  - a. of a Remnant - 5.10, 18; 8.3; 23.3; 31.7-8; 35.19; 39.9; 40.11, 15; 41.16; 42.2, 15, 19; 43.5; 44.12, 14, 28; 50.20
  - b. of Restoration - 1.10; 3.16-18; 9.7; 12.14-17; 16.14-21; 23.2-8; 24.1-10; 29.10-14; 30-33; 46.27-28; 48.47; 49.6, 39; 50.4-5, 17-20; 51.45-48
5. "Repent" - 3.11-14, 22-25; 4.3, 14; 7.3-7; 9.23-24; 17.24-27; 22.3-5; 26.3; 36.3, 7; 38.20

**Interpretive Issue** – This book does not follow a chronological structure. It jumps around in the chronological flow. Context must be followed carefully in each section.